



The Road to Terminus

Catherine Leggitt

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The paths of three strangers collide on a desperate road trip along Route 66. One is running away, one is racing the clock, and the child who binds them merely hopes to survive.

Middle-aged widow Mabel Crowley hasn't felt needed in years. But when a homeless child named Stryker shows up at church one Sunday, Mabel's life takes a drastic turn.

George Stanton is not who he seems. Running from the law in his brand new 1955 Lincoln Continental, he's planning a mad dash to Mexico to leave his past behind. He can't let an old woman and a sick kid get in his way.

Eleven-year-old Stryker has never eaten with utensils and doesn't know how to read, but she can identify the make, year, and model of every car on the road. She won't reveal the identity of her mother or why she's been told to never let her tattered stuffed monkey out of her sight.

Mabel races against time to save Stryker's life. George only wants to save his own skin. Soon their destinies become irrevocably entwined, and the road they choose could change their lives forever.

The Road to Terminus Details

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From Reader Review The Road to Terminus for online ebook

Anne Campbell says

One homeless sick child, one not-so-healthy woman, and one desperate fugitive. How in the world did they wind up in the same old Studebaker--uh, Packard--headed for LA?

Well, for one thing, the child (Stryker) needs help not available in St. Louis--at least not help big-hearted Mabel Crowley can afford. And George Stanton--uh, Vince Morelli--well, beggars can't be choosers.

I'm loving this book! Not done with it yet, but Catherine Leggitt won't let me put this thing down!

Jeris Hamm says

The Road to Terminus is a Route 66 adventure that is part Bonnie & Clyde and part Driving Miss Daisy, with the ticking clock and bittersweetness of Terms of Endearment thrown in. All of the up-and-down emotions, personality clashes, and plot twists make for a surprising, exasperating, and funny story with a redemptive, "God's got this" ending. A page-turner with fresh characters and a nostalgic, 1950's setting.

Sharon Souza says

The Road to Terminus was a departure from the books I've previously ready by Catherine Leggitt, but it was truly a good read! From the opening page to the very end this was an enthralling, fast-paced novel that barely gave you time to catch your breath. It was difficult to put down once I started it, because there was never a lull in the action. The character development, as well, was some of Catherine Leggitt's finest. This is a touching story, and one I highly recommend.

Gophergirl58 says

I have to admit that I personally felt the book was a little slow in the beginning, but once the trio began their trip, I was hooked. Not so sure about the name Stryker for a girl in the 1950s, though. How about a follow-up on this story?

Donn Taylor says

In 1955, George Stanton—drug user, alcoholic, and embezzler—flees from Chicago when both the underworld and the law close in on him. Meanwhile in St. Louis, the aged widow Mabel Crowley takes in a street urchin, a little girl named Stryker. The reluctant Stryker holds on desperately to a stuffed monkey toy because the mother who abandoned her said never to let the monkey out of her sight. A medical exam shows that Stryker has acute leukemia, and only an experimental treatment at the UCLA Medical Center has any

hope of a cure. So Mabel loads Stryker and the monkey into her aging Studebaker and sets out for California. A few miles down Highway 66 they find a wreck. George Stanton, driving his Lincoln while drunk, has sped into sharp curve and crashed. Mabel and Stryker take the ungracious George in, and thus begins a long and troubled odyssey for the ill-matched and cross-motivated trio.

In author Catherine Leggitt's practiced handling, this conflicted situation becomes both a fascinating story and a character study of unusual depth. As the journey progresses, each of the three characters changes the other two and is changed by them. As a bonus for the reader, the author's detailed historical research on the geography of Highway 66 and its environs, together with her extensive knowledge of classic automobiles, add interest at each point along the way. The author weaves all of these threads into a narrative of increasing tension, leading to a climax in which the characters and the reader confront the stark reality of eternal truth. These factors make for an excellent book with a depth rarely found in commercial fiction.

Clarice James says

Catherine Leggitt is a master of creating conflict and intrigue. In *The Road to Terminus*, I never knew what would happen next—and couldn't wait to find out. This story is a real-life example of how God orchestrates our lives even when we believe we have His plan all figured out. There's not one perfect person in the group of three travelers—even the devout Christian. In the end, we discover God has amazing grace for them all.

C.J. Darlington says

Sometimes you can tell you're going to like a book from page one, and that's what happened to me when I read *The Road to Terminus*. This Christian novel is unique and different from the usual fare, somethings that makes it very hard to put down. You'll root with the characters, yell at them a few times, and enjoy your trip down 1950s Route 66. A fantastic mix of nostalgia, tenderness, and grit, *The Road to Terminus* is a novel you won't forget.

Linda says

“...and a little child shall lead them.”

Fugitive George Stanton, Widow Mabel Crowley, and Street Urchin Stryker are the unlikeliest trio in the world. Yet, circumstances throw them together on a cross-country journey. Stalked by the FBI, a mysterious black vehicle, car trouble, illness and more, the three pull together to reach their destination. Description and dialogue will take you back to the 1950s. The theme of God's love and forgiveness is evident without being preachy. The characters are well-developed with flaws I could relate to. Highly recommended.

I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Linda Opp says

The Road to Terminus is a road to danger, detours and desperation. On the way you'll meet three people who would never have chosen to take a road trip together - George, a selfish, scheming criminal; Mabel, a well-meaning but slightly judgmental middle-aged woman, feeling duty-bound to God; and Stryker, a terminally ill, abandoned little girl. How their paths converge on Route 66 in Mabel's elderly Studebaker sedan is a fascinating story in itself, but the adventure is just beginning.

George wants to get to Mexico, where he'll be safe from the business partners he cheated on. Mabel wants to get to a UCLA hospital in California to get treatment for Stryker. Stryker is too sick to want much of anything, but as she travels with this mismatched pair of adults, she unexpectedly begins to experience the sense of family she's been longing for.

The outer journey is also a journey of self-discovery, made all the more interesting by the wealth of period detail from 1955. Will George get his wish to make it big in Mexico? Will Mabel find a relationship with God that is more than duty? Will Stryker make it to UCLA in time? This is a road trip you won't forget.

Marcia A. says

“life is a journey not a destination.”

In The Road to Terminus, Catherine Leggit lets us experience the lives of three people.

George, the heir to the Wall Street Stantons, a self-centered addict, who haunted by his father's ridicule, has done what it takes to escape his seemingly perfect life to start a new one—including embezzlement.

Mabel, who has lost both husband and son, plods along doing what is right, fighting loneliness, wondering what her purpose in life is, until she commits to driving eleven-year old Stryker, a very sick street child, to California for treatment.

Stryker, desperate for stability and a family who can care for her physical, emotional and spiritual needs, is unable to read, but can name the make and model of every car on the road. She also has the ability to give unconditional love.

Through one adventure after another, Catherine masterfully uses word pictures and humorous dialogue to weave these separate journeys into one. I recommend you buckle up and go along for the ride. Wait. This journey takes place on Route 66 in 1955. No seatbelts!

Valerie says

I read an advanced copy of The Road To Terminus. Catherine Leggitt has created memorable characters in her latest novel. I fell in love with the child and her endless knowledge of automobiles! What an adventure for Mable, George and Stryker, but the journey has surprises in store for each person. Great read.

Marcy Dyer says

I read an advance copy of The Road to Terminus, a Christian novel, in exchange for an honest review.

When Mabel Crowley meets Stryker, she doesn't know if the child is a boy or a girl, but her heart is captured by the youngster.

While taking Stryker to California, Mabel and Stryker cross paths with George and due to circumstances they end up traveling together.

The characters of Mabel and Stryker are endearing and easily liked. George in contrast is a callous jerk. And that makes him the perfect character in this story.

The author will draw you in and you'll adore Stryker.

Grab your tissues, because the story will touch your heart.

Carol says

Wow. This story is set in the 1950s along Route 66, but that's only the milieu for a gripping tale. The unlikely combination of characters is really what keeps you reading. Stryker is sweet, innocent, and uncannily perceptive. Mabel is sweet but not perfect, which is refreshing. George is one of a kind, and any author who can make us sympathize with a character like George is good.

The pace kept me reading while I ran through the gamut of emotions. You really just never know what's going to happen. I ended up caring a lot about each of these people. There is something for everyone in this book. Loved it.

Nancee says

Three very distinctive individuals traveling entirely different paths, are seeking resolution to their individual predicaments. Three personal stories are woven into an intricate design through the paths these individuals have chosen to travel. These characters are so uniquely different that it seems unlikely they could possibly join together to reach their personal destinies. Ms. Leggitt does a commendable job at creating strong characters whose stories couldn't be more different. You'll recognize these people as you turn the pages, a progressively independent businessman, a middle-aged widow, and a homeless child who'll tug at your heartstrings. What transpires between them is unforeseen.

This is a book that I found very difficult to put down. There is continuous action with circumstances that appear from the least suspected places. Personalities are detailed to the point that I found my emotions reaching all ends of the spectrum. Stryker was quite a "character" in so many ways, so wise for her youth, but still an extremely vulnerable child. I loved her and her mannerisms.

Personalities rear their ugly heads, but the tapestry that is woven throughout the lives of these three people in dire circumstances can induce anger and disgust, bring you to tears, and warm your heart. I highly recommend *The Road to Terminus!* It's quite a ride!

Disclaimer: I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for my honest review. All expressed opinions are my own, and no monetary compensation was received for this review.

Sherry Reese says

I was lucky enough to read an advance copy of this book, the story of a 1955 road trip on Route 66 taken by three unlikely characters. It is so excellently researched, right down to the cars of the era and the roadside attractions. Another wonderful story by Catherine Leggitt! It brought back so many fond memories, and I couldn't put it down.
